



*Lowell & Claudia Wertz  
P.O. Box 1344  
Kigoma, Tanzania*

December, 2003

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

These are exciting days for our family and it may be our best Christmas ever. Here's why!

- The container has arrived safely. So many people will be blessed by these gifts. We cannot say "thank you" enough to all who made it possible.
- We are now in Johannesburg, South Africa where Luke is taking his SAT and ACT college entrance exams. College is just around the corner for him.
- We brought to South Africa the two 80 pound boxes of gifts from the *Joy in the Harvest Women's Retreat*. *Aid to the Aged* will be distributing these gifts to the elderly destitute in a few days. We will be there to help.
- We will return to Tanzania just as Mom Wiesner arrives for her annual three month "safari" to Kigoma. We are all excited she is coming.
- In Kigoma we plan to celebrate Christmas at the destitute camp. The joy we experience there has become the highlight of our Christmas.
- Kimberly is wrapping up this semester at Asbury College and will be coming to Kigoma for Christmas. In January she will go to Cairo, Egypt for a semester of Islamic and Middle East studies.

Christmas is all about God's love. With a manger and a cross, Jesus showed how much He wants us to be with Him forever!

What a privilege it is to tell the story of Jesus here in Africa. Thank you for making our ministry possible for twenty four years.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Lowell, Claudia  
Kimberly & Luke*

# AFRICAN PHOTO ALBUM

The container arrives in Tanzania but has to travel across the country by train. Then we were able to unload it!



Installing the satellite Internet link and the room we built so missionaries can “phone home”.



Kimberly's Baptism in Kigoma on August 4, 2003



Luke Wertz:  
the webmaster of  
[www.joyintheharvest.com](http://www.joyintheharvest.com)



# Joy in the Harvest



YOUR GIFTS FOR THE NEEDY

## The Container Arrives!

*“Your prayers  
and  
gifts to the poor  
have come up  
as a memorial offering  
before God.”*

~ the angel in Acts 10:4 ~

**After many delays, the forty-foot container arrived in Kigoma, Tanzania on November 5th.**

The container was trucked to Chicago in June, but was returned to us when the ocean shipping line wouldn't accept it with 26 pounds of aviation paint inside it. After it did sail, it missed its connection in Israel which caused another six week delay. Finally, it arrived in

Dar es Salaam on October 1 — the very day a new tax law went into effect. This created more paperwork and another month's delay. Even though it has taken a long time, we are very glad it has arrived safely!

**A crew of twenty-seven Joy in the Harvest employees unloaded the container in just two days.**

Our employees were very excited as they realized what God had done. Three vehicles were used to haul the items to nineteen designated locations. We will be organizing and distributing the donated items very soon.

**Thank you to all who have shown Christian love to the needy people of Tanzania. Most of all, thank you for helping to bring the Gospel of Christ to Africa.** ☩

## 🎄 CHECKLIST 🎄

✳ **Address:**

*Joy in the Harvest*  
P.O. Box 496  
Lansing, IL 60438

**E Mail Addresses:**

wertz@joyintheharvest.com  
usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

**Web site:**

www.joyintheharvest.com

(An envelop is enclosed as a convenience for those wishing to send a gift or note.)

✳ **UMC of Tanzania holds Constitutional Convention**

Held on Oct 17-19 in Kigoma. Lowell was the speaker and taught the book of Titus, the history of John Wesley and Methodism, and preached the Sunday communion service.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**Joy in the Harvest has had a ten year working relationship with “Baba” Steven. His Christian character, intelligence, and strong work ethic has made him a valuable asset to our ministry.**

By training, he is an electrical contractor, but we put him to work on any difficult job. When we really need a job done right, Baba Steven is the man we call. While he is not one of our salaried employees, Baba



Mr. Steven Elijah

Steven spends most of his days doing contract work for us. His latest job was wiring the computer school. He installed an extensive system of “under the floor” conduits and cabling for our computer network. Steven married Agnes Saimon in 1975, and they have five children (three boys and two girls). In the past he worked as an electrician for the water ministry and police department. He serves as an elder in the Moravian church. ☩



CELEBRATE JESUS!

## This Christmas In Africa

### New Computer School Building Almost Ready

Our *Joy in the Harvest* computer school building is almost ready. This new building is just days from completion. It will have 20 work stations. The new computer equipment and facility will enable many Africans to acquire job skills. Hundreds have already applied!



Networking cables being installed.

### Destitutes in Two African Countries Celebrate Christmas

Thanks to the supporters of *Joy in the Harvest*, Christmas gifts are coming to some of the world's poorest people in two countries. In Kigoma, Tanzania, gifts of clothing, bed sheets, and toys will brighten the holidays at the Destitute Camp. A Christmas party and meal is also planned. In Johannesburg, South Africa, gift packs prepared by the *Joy in the Harvest Women's Retreat* will be distributed to elderly destitutes through our partners in ministry — *Aid to the Aged*. Lowell and Claudia plan to be at their Christmas gathering and gift distribution.

### Missionaries Able to Phone Home

Scouts from Indiana who did leadership training in Tanzania in 2001 have given the gift of a satellite Internet connection to *Joy in the Harvest*. A small room was built in our yard to enable other missionaries to use this link to speak to their families back home, as well.



Missionary Ruthie Johnson speaks with her children in the States.



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Questions Visitors Ask

*Before the trip to Africa, visitors always have questions...*

**Q. How many days should I allow for a trip to Tanzania?**

A. While there is no minimum number of days, the trip to and from the States usually takes about a week in total. We suggest another two weeks in Africa for a total of three weeks.

**Q. What shots do I need to get?**

A. Coming from the States

there are no legally required shots for Tanzania. You will want to get some, however. Your doctor is the only one to decide which ones. Don't forget the malaria pills too!

**Q. How much do the airline tickets cost?**

A. Some airlines give good prices through special agencies for people on mission trips. If you book early the price range from Chicago varies from about \$1,200 to \$1,800 (depending on

the time of year). We can give you the needed information.

**Q. Can we arrange to go on a safari or visit a game park?**

A. We have arranged for our guests to take a day trip to visit Jane Goodall's chimps (about \$150 per person). Another popular option is an overnight trip to Mikumi National Park to see elephants, lions, giraffes, and a lot more. It costs about \$560 per person for two people; it's cheaper if more people go.

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest." Isaiah 9:2,3*